Cataract Operation at MALAUBARI VILLAGE IN GUWAHATI

2136. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that twenty three elder persons who underwent cataract operation at a government sponsored blindness control camp at Malaubari village in Guwahati had developed serious complications and condition of three of them is critical;

(b) whether it is also a fact that twenty-two children died recently after being administered Vitamin A drops under a UNICEF sponsored campaign in Assam;

(c) whether Government have ordered an enquiry in both the episodes; and

(d) if so, the findings in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) : (a) It has been reported by the State Government that 24 cases out of total of 37 cases operated for cataract in a school building at Malaubari village of Kamrup district developed post-operative infection.

(b) As per State Government report about 95 children had shown adverse effects like vomiting after administration of Vit. A. 14 children had died after the incident and in most of these cases, the death was due to causes unrelated to Vit. A. The deaths have taken place due to diseases like cardiac failure, foreign body aspiration, severe anemia, fever of indeterminate cause, etc.

(c) and (d) Government has constituted a committee to investigate the mishaps and ascertain the cause of post-operative infection.

News-item "CATS say Hospitals Don't Care"

2137. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "CATS say hospitals don't care", which appeared in the Times of India, dated 20th November, 2001; and